

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

February 2014 – Week 4

Air Date: February 23 – March 1 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: FRY'S FOLLY

FEBRUARY 1915 AND A FRIENDLY HOLDUP?

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

FEBRUARY 24, 1915. GRAHAM. POPULAR STATE REPRESENTATIVE E.W. FRY IS UNDER ARREST – CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING \$25,000 WHEN HE WAS COUNTY JUDGE. EVIDENCE SHOWS HE SIGNED 800 CHECKS FOR FOLKS THAT DIDN'T EXIST!

IT'S NOW 3 AM, FRY AND TWO OTHERS SHOW UP AT THE COURTHOUSE, WHERE THE EVIDENCE IS UNDER ARMED GUARD. A GUNFIGHT BREAKS OUT. BOTH GUARDS DIE.

NOW ON TRIAL FOR MURDER, FRY ADMITS HE AND HIS MEN WERE AFTER THE EVIDENCE – BUT THE GUARDS WERE IN ON IT. CALLING IT A “FRIENDLY HOLD-UP”, HE IS ACQUITTED.

LATER CONVICTED OF FORGERY AND GIVEN TWO YEARS IN JAIL, FRY APPEALS. IN 1919, BEFORE HE EVER SERVES A DAY, HE'S PARDONED BY THE GOVERNOR.

FRY'S FRIENDLY HOLD-UP WENT BAD 99 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Browser's Book of Texas History, Steven A. Jent, Republic of Texas Press, 2000

Contemporary Newspaper Reports (partial listing):

<i>Wichita Daily Times</i>	Feb. 12, 14, 19, 21, 24, 26
	Mar. 12, 26
	April 10
<i>Galveston County Daily News</i>	April 10, 13, 14
<i>San Antonio Light</i>	Feb. 24, 1915
<i>Graham Leader</i>	Feb. 25, 1915

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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